Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resource Development.

In the year 2000-01, Government of India has spent around Rs. 82 lakhs on creating awareness among people regarding use of tobacco products. During the biennium 2000-2001, World Health Organisation has provided for a total of US $ 1.2 million for funding programmes on discouraging use of tobacco products.

Prevention of Female Foeticide

35. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the decision taken at the recent meeting of the Indian Medical Association to evolve an effective strategy for prevention of female foeticide; and

(b) the action proposed for creating public awareness to curb such practice in order to maintain balance between male and female in each State?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) Indian Medical Association in collaboration with UNICEF and National Commission for Women convened on 24th June, 2001, a Religious Leaders; Meet to seek consensus towards an effective strategy for elimination of female foeticide/ infanticide at New Delhi. The Meet was attended by many religious leaders, Government functionaries, doctors, social activists, representatives from media, NGOs, educationist and legal experts. All religious leaders out-rightly condemened the practice of female foeticide and gave a call to the citizens of India for shunning this inhuman -practice. A copy of the "pledge" taken by religious leaders at concluding session of the meeting is given in the enclosed Statement *[Refer to the Statement appended to the answer to Unstarred Question No.* 16 part (e)]

(b) In order to Curtail and eliminate the sex selective foeticide, the Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994 banning disclosure of sex of foetus is in operation

since 1st January 1996, in all States and UTs except J&K. The responsibility for implementation of the Act rests largely with the States/Union Territories.

In addition to national level publicity in print and electronic media against the evil of sex determination of foetus and about the provisions of the Act, the States/UTs have been advised to mount an effective awareness campaign to make the public and service providers aware of the provisions of the Act. The States/UTs have also been advised to provide protection to social activists and Non-Governmental Organizations giving information of filing complaints of violation of provisions of the Act.

Workshops/Seminars are being organised at State/district level, to create awareness about the provisions of the Act. Voluntary Organisations are also being involved to carry out projects regarding creating awareness about the provisions of the Act.'

National Level Non-Governmental Organisations have been requested to take on projects for generating awareness about the provisions of the act, among doctors/clinics/law enforcing authorities and public at large.

Report of Dr. J.N. Pande Committee

36. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee constituted on the 16th November, 2000 under the Chairmanship of Dr. J.N. Pande, HOD (IM), AllMS, New Delhi to prepare a comprehensive formula for CGHS and MSO and also to consider the procedure to be adopted for minimizing references to private chemists by Medical Officers/Specialists in CGHS for procuring drugs has submitted its report; and

(b) if so, the recommendations made and action being taken thereon?